United Nations A/68/712

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 January 2014

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 14
Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Letter dated 10 December 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 5 December 2013 addressed to you from the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay, concerning the report entitled "Happiness: towards a new development paradigm", prepared by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat for the New Development Paradigm, with contributions from the International Expert Working Group (see annex).

The above-mentioned report was prepared in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 65/309, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development", and is submitted under agenda item 14, "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields".

It would be appreciated it you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Kunzang C. **Namgyel**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

14-21049 (E) 210114

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2013 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the report entitled "Happiness: towards a new development paradigm" (available from http://www.newdevelopment paradigm.bt), prepared by the Steering Committee and the Secretariat for the New Development Paradigm, with contributions from the International Expert Working Group. The Steering Committee and the International Expert Working Group were established following the high-level meeting on well-being and happiness held on 2 April 2012 at United Nations Headquarters in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 65/309, entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development".

The Kingdom of Bhutan is honoured to present this report as a contribution to the current global conversation on a transformative post-2015 development agenda. The report is inspired by Bhutan's development approach, which is based on the philosophy of gross national happiness, and seeks to propose happiness as a guiding vision for a new development agenda. The four pillars of gross national happiness, which are proposed as core dimensions of this new agenda, are: sustainable and equitable socioeconomic development; environmental conservation; preservation and promotion of culture; and good governance. It is our sincere hope that the report will complement the recommendations contained in other reports, including the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We kindly request that the report be shared with all Member States.

(*Signed*) Tshering **Tobgay**
Prime Minister of Bhutan